

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Q.1 Who needs to complete the online School Bus Privilege Registration through PowerSchool Parent Portal\*?

- A. **All** students who wish to ride the school bus to and from Shrewsbury Public Schools *and* all special education students who attend programs in Shrewsbury Public Schools, including those who require specialized busing.

*\*High school students **cannot** access the Bus Privilege Registration from their own accounts. Registration can only be accessed through the Parent Portal.*

### Q.2 Who needs to complete the paper form for School Bus Privilege Registration?

- A. Students who attend Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School or any private school in Shrewsbury will **NOT** register online **BUT** are required to download, complete and mail in the paper registration form located on our website. Forms are also available at the School Department, 100 Maple Ave.  
*Please note: Students attending Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School will receive bus transportation at no cost per state law. The same eligibility rules for free or fee-based busing for Shrewsbury Public School students apply to students attending private schools in Shrewsbury.*

### Q.3 Who is eligible for free school bus transportation in Shrewsbury?

- A. Per state law, all Shrewsbury students (public and private) in grades K-6 who reside 2.01 miles or more from their assigned school are eligible for free transportation. Transportation is only available to other students residing 2.0 miles or less from their school, or in grades 7-12 for a fee. Transportation is not available to preschool students.

### Q.4 What is the fee-based busing program?

- A. Fee-based busing applies to all Shrewsbury Public Schools students **and** Shrewsbury residents attending private schools in Shrewsbury in grades K-6 who reside 2.0 miles or less from the school that they attend **and** all students in grades 7-12 regardless of distance. *As stated above - Students attending Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School do not pay a fee per state law.*

### Q.5 What is the fee for Bus Privileges for students who do not qualify for free transportation?

- A. The school bus fee is \$250.00 per student, and there is a family cap of \$500.00. A late fee of \$50.00 per student will be assessed after June 1, 2015 (with a \$100.00 family cap for late fees). Checks or money orders made payable to **Shrewsbury Public Schools** are the only form of payment accepted.

### Q.6 Does the bus fee pay for the entire cost of busing my child?

- A. **No.** Bus fees only account for approximately 25% of the total cost of in-district busing in Shrewsbury.

### Q.7 How is the mileage determination made for student transportation?

- A. Shrewsbury Public Schools utilizes VersaTrans routing software to measure distances within town, and to determine school bus stops and routes. We use the distance measured by the software to determine the distance between a student's home and the assigned school.

**Q.8 What if the student is eligible for the Free/Reduced Lunch Program?**

- A. Per state law, students who are currently eligible for the Free/Reduced Lunch Program will not be required to pay the bus fee. *However, registration for bus privileges through the PowerSchool Parent Portal is still required and a late fee will be required if registration is not received by June 1st.* If it is determined that you are no longer eligible for this program you will be required to pay the transportation fee.

**Q.9 What if the student has an IEP?**

- A. Only special education students with specialized transportation requirements written into a valid IEP will receive bus transportation at no cost; otherwise special education students meeting distance criteria for payment must pay. *Regardless of an IEP, registration is required through the PowerSchool Parent Portal.*

**Q.10 Can I purchase a one-way or partial year Bus Privilege at a reduced rate?**

- A. No. All bus privileges are issued based upon a student bus assignment to and from school or day care services. Each child is assigned one bus and one stop to and from school. Regardless of one way or round trip use, the fee remains the same.

**Q.11 When do I have to submit payment?**

- A. All bus fees must be submitted in full in person by 4:30pm on June 1, 2015 or postmarked with a June 1, 2015 date. All bus registrations received June 2nd or later will be assessed a \$50.00 late fee per student (\$100 family cap late fee), **regardless of the free or fee based status of the request.** *If you are not sure about busing as of June 2nd, it is advisable to pay the fee and reserve your spot and cancel with full refund prior to the first day of school so as not to incur a late fee.*

**Q.12 Can my child be picked up or dropped off at a day care provider?**

- A. Yes. We will provide services to and/or from day care providers if the day care is in the same school district as the home. For example, a child who resides in the Floral School District can use a day care located in the Floral School District only. Day care transportation is provided either one-way or round trip, **but must be for all five days each week.** If you are not certain if your provider is located within the same district as your child's school, you may email [transportation@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us](mailto:transportation@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us)

**Q.13 Can I get a refund of my bus fee?**

- A. Refunds will be issued if a completed refund request form, available on the Transportation Department webpage under "Forms and Applications" or at the School Department, is sent to the School Department *and received prior* to the first day of school. Once school has started, **no refunds will be issued.** Late fees will not be refunded and a processing fee of \$25 per student will be deducted from the refund.

**Q.14 How do I find out when and where the bus stops?**

- A. Families who have students attending school in Shrewsbury Public Schools WILL NOT be mailed the bus number or location. This information will be posted to the PowerSchool Parent Portal site for parents to review in late August once bus routes have been finalized.

Families whose students attend private or vocational schools will be mailed information in late August.